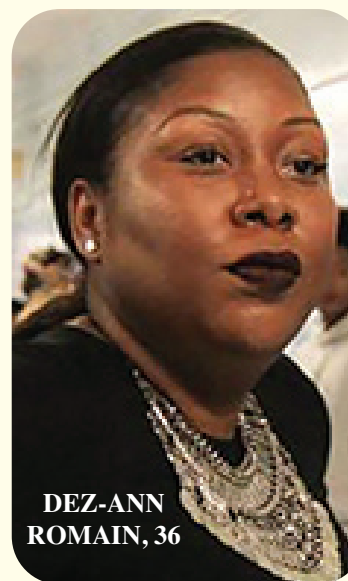


## Brooklyn Principal dies from COVID-19



DEZ-ANN ROMAIN, 36

NEWS AMERICAS

A Caribbean born immigrant and New York school's principal is among the 385 persons who have now died from COVID-19 in New York.

Dez-Ann Romain, 36, who died on March 23 was a principal at Brooklyn Democracy Academy.

She was born in Trinidad and her death has been reported as complications caused by the COVID-19 coronavirus.

Romain is the first known New York City public school staff member to die from the virus.

Romain came to the United States at a young age. Her passion for transfer students stemmed in part from her own experience growing up poor and finding her own path through education.

"It is with profound sadness and overwhelming grief that we announce the passing of our sister, CSA member Dez-

Ann Romain, Principal of Brooklyn Democracy Academy, due to complications from Coronavirus," the Council of Schools Supervisors and Administrators wrote in a statement.

In a statement, NYC Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza offered his condolences, saying in part, "We'll be there for the students and staff through whatever means necessary."

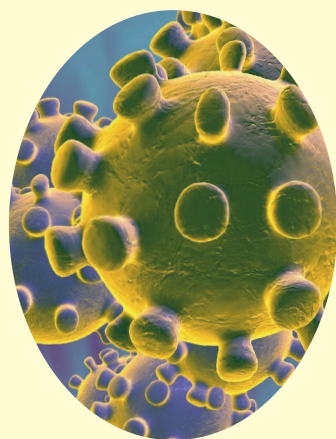
"She was caring, driven, had a vision and she carried it out," said Andrew Brown, the former principal of BDA who hired Ms. Romain as his AP in 2015 and then pushed to have her take the reins when he became principal of Judith S. Kaye High School. "I left the school in a good place, but I knew she was the right person to move it forward. The things I couldn't do or didn't have enough attention to detail to do — she got them done after I left."

Romain is survived by her sister.

Story on Page 5

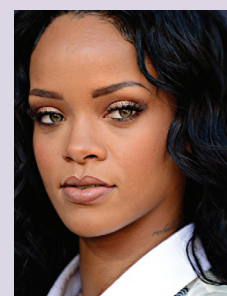
US leads the world with over 190,000

Covid 19 • 4,132 Deaths  
• 7247 Recovered



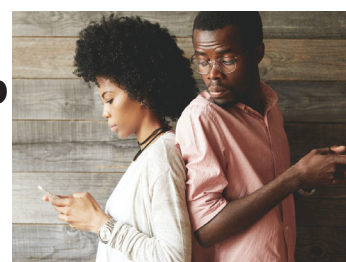
Rihanna donates US\$5M to help fight COVID-19

Page 7



Tips to keep your relationship intact during quarantine

Page 14



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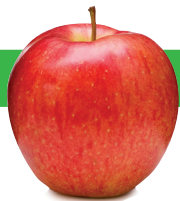
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## EDITORIAL

### Panic hit New Yorkers as COVID-19 numbers increase.

Many New Yorkers are now faced with the decision of whether or not they should worry or pray as the number of people affected by the coronavirus increases. The rush of panic shopping as decreased, but panic tweets and theories have escalated as people try to understand the reality of what is occurring in the city.

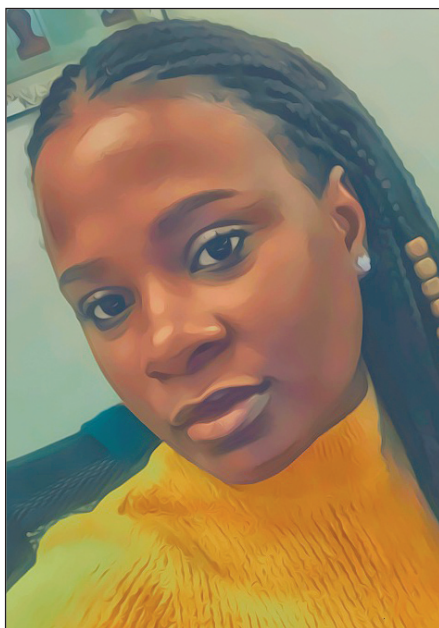
With the spring season now on the horizon, the idea of staying inside is maddening and depressing for a number of reasons. One of which is that spring is normally the time where people would get in the habit of being in nature more.

As the death numbers escalate, many of our essential workers such as those in the health field, police officers and more are experiencing the brunt of it, creating a buildup of panic within those sectors.

The reality is the virus can be deadly, especially for those who have underlying illnesses and the elderly. People are dying, and households are being affected.

However, being in a constant state of panic does not resolve anything, as a matter of fact, it does the opposite. If you are thinking about whether or not you should worry or pray, in my humblest opinion, I will encourage you to pray.

One thing that the year 2020 has taught us so far is that some things are out of our control. Nevertheless,



By Solemn\_Vow  
editor@streethype.net

we can reverse a lot of things, whether it is personal, societal or worldwide if we choose prayer over worry.

Let's stop spreading conspiracy theories and having doomsday conversations, but let us join hands and hearts together and pray for the Big Apple and the other parts of the world that are being affected by this virus.

Actor and producer Tyler Perry started a challenge to remind us that God got the whole world in his hands and I concur and also, his plan is not for any of us to perish but to live an abundant life when we acknowledge him.

The opinions expressed in this newspaper, except for the above, do not necessarily reflect the views of Street Hype Newspaper and its publishers. Please send your comments and or suggestions to editor@streethypenewspaper.com. Responses should be no longer than 400 words. Not all articles will be published.

## Brooklyn Priest Dies From Coronavirus

Brooklyn, NY:

The Diocese of Brooklyn announced that the beloved priest, Father Jorge Ortiz-Garay, died on Friday, March 27th at the Wyckoff Heights Medical Center. He was 49 years old.

"We mourn the passing of our own father Jorge, we pray for the intercession of the lady of Guadalupe for him and for his family at this time and for all that we may surpass and conquer this terrible virus," said Nicholas DiMarzio, Bishop of Brooklyn.

According to the Diocese of Brooklyn, it is believed that Father Jorge is the first Catholic priest in the United States to die as a result of the coronavirus.

Father Jorge was born in Mexico City in 1970 and was ordained as a priest in 2004. He joined the Diocese of Brooklyn in 2009.



Father Jorge Ortiz-Garay

A memorial mass will be celebrated but details have not yet been announced. Father Jorge is survived by his parents, siblings, nieces and nephews.

## Trinidad & Tobago has recorded a third death from the coronavirus

A statement from the twin-island republic's Ministry of Health on Saturday, March 28, 2020 said there are now 76 positive cases of the respiratory illness. One person has been discharged.

Five hundred samples have been tested. Health Minister Terrence Deyalsingh warned on March 27th that the country is at a tipping point this weekend and could have an exponential rise in covid-19 cases if the almost 20,000 nationals who returned to the country recently do not self-quarantine.

Deyalsingh said the vast majority of the returning nationals came from the UK, Canada and the US.

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## NEWS



Jamaica's Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr Christopher Tufton (4th l) and Cuban Ambassador to Jamaica, Inés Fors Fernández with the team of Cuban health professionals in Jamaica on March 21. The 140 Cuban medical professionals are in the island, to help the country fight COVID-19.

## COVID-19 Update: Jamaica Now Has 34 Cases

KINGSTON, JAMAICA:

The total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Jamaica now stands at 34. The increase comes as the National Influenza Centre has reported two positive results from 5 tests that were pending.

The two new cases are: a 34 year-old female from St. James with a travel history from New York and a 74-year-old female from St. Catherine with a travel history from the New York. The classification of cases shows that twenty-three (23) are imported cases, ten (10) are import-related and one (1) is under investigation. The 60 year old fe-

male from Portland has now been classified as an import-related case.

The island has so far tested 292 samples, including tests for Severe Acute Respiratory Infections. Thirty-four (34) of the 292 tested positive and 253 tested negative. This represents a positivity yield of 11.6 percent. Five (5) results are pending and the results will be made available.

### Testing Capacity

In the meantime, the Ministry is making headway with increasing its capacity to test for COVID-19. The extraction process of testing at the National Influenza Centre is being automated for greater efficiency and this will increase the capacity

of the number of samples tested to more than 100 daily.

At the National Public Health Laboratory, a COBAS 6800 machine is being installed. In the next three weeks, equipment installation and training of staff will be completed and the facility will be able to complement the work done at the Na-

tional Influenza Centre with the capacity to test approximately 380 samples per eight hour day.

The Ministry is also to receive additional PCR testing machines from the International Atomic Energy Agency that will further increase the island's testing capacity.

## Caribbean Now Has Over 1,400 Coronavirus Cases

News Americas:

The number of COVID-19 cases in the Caribbean is still spiking upwards and has shown no signs of slowing down so far.

As the global total number of confirmed cases from the new coronavirus reached 621,090 today, there are now 1,421 cases in the Caribbean, up from 1,100. However, the death toll across the region is now at 72 as Puerto Rico has so far reported 36 deaths to date, a spike from 3.

The Dominican Republic, however, continues to lead the region with the highest number of cases, adding 148 new cases to bring its total confirmed cases to 729. This as the country's death toll jumped to 28, increasing by 8 from its Friday total.

Elsewhere in the region, the virus is also up ticking. Guadeloupe added 23 cases to now reach 96 to date, as the territory's death total also increased to 2.

The French Caribbean territory of Martinique has 93 cases but did not report an increase to date. It also has only one death. Cuba has 80 cases and two deaths.

Here's where other countries in this region now stack up right now:

Puerto Rico – 100 plus 36 deaths; Trinidad and Tobago – 66 plus 2 deaths; Aruba – 33; Jamaica – 30, after adding four new cases. But it still has only one death

French Guiana – 28; Barbados – 26; US Virgin Islands 19; Bermuda 17; Dominica – 11; St. Martin – 11; Bahamas – 10; Cayman Islands – 8 plus one death; Haiti – 8; Suriname – 8; Curacao – 7 plus one death; Antigua & Barbuda – 7; Grenada – 7; Guyana – 5 plus one death; Montserrat – 5; St. Barth – 3; St. Lucia – 3; Sint Maarten – 3; Belize – 2; Anguilla – 2; British Virgin Islands – 2; St. Kitts & Nevis – 2; Turks & Caicos – 2 and St. Vincent and the Grenadines – 1

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## NEWS

## COVID-19 Update:

## US leads world with over 190,000 coronavirus cases

New York, NY:

A pandemic of the novel coronavirus has now killed more than 33,998 people around the world, including at least 4,123 people in the United States.

Worldwide, there are more than 888,544 diagnosed cases of COVID-19, spanning every continent except Antarctica, according to data compiled by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University.

At least 188,753 people around the world have recovered.

The U.S. has the highest national total cases of 190,908, ahead of Italy (106,208) Spain (102,136) and China (81,566). With New York City cases rising to 66,497, confirmed cases.

More than a quarter of the total U.S.

COVID-19 cases are in the City. Roughly 55% of New York City patients are under 50 years old, the health department said. The city's death toll is now at 365, according to the health department. The city has twice as many deaths as any state.

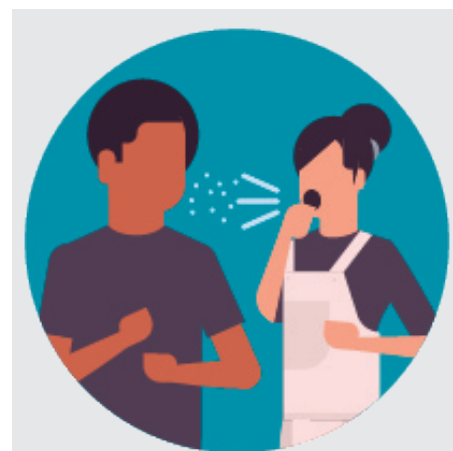
Vice President, Mike Pence says more than half million coronavirus tests have been conducted in the U.S. The 552,000 tests include ones from private hospitals, and the vice president urged more companies to send their results to the health experts at the federal level.

"It's so important that any hospital or any lab that's doing testing report back to the CDC and FEMA so we have full visibility to provide the president with the very best counsel," he said at Thursday's White House press conference. Pence said

Wednesday 432,000 people had been tested, though the numbers did not include private testing facilities.

Pence speaks about the coronavirus in the James Brady Briefing Room, March 26, 2020, in Washington. Dr. Deborah Birx, the coordinator of the White House coronavirus task force, said based on current data, there is no indication that the virus could infect a huge majority of Americans.

"There's no reality on the ground where we can see that 60 or 70% of Americans get infected in the next eight to 12 weeks," she said. The United States now has more coronavirus cases than any nation in the world, according to data from the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University.



## Know How it Spreads

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).

Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

## NYC COVID 19 cases

10,737 in Queens

8,887 in Brooklyn

6,250 in the Bronx

5,582 in Manhattan

1,984 on Staten Island

## Tri-States

	(Cases)	(Deaths)
New York	66,497	1,218
New Jersey	16,636	198
Pennsylvania	4,087	48
Connecticut	2,571	36



The US Navy Hospital Ship Comfort has docked in New York City

## NYC death toll nears 800 in Coronavirus cases

Manhattan, NY:

Mayor Bill de Blasio stated that there are now 41,771 positive cases in New York City and at least 1,096 deaths. Navy ship USNS Comfort docked on Manhattan's west side on Monday, March 30rd, delivering 1,000 hospital beds as the number of coronavirus-related deaths in the city continue to rise.

Statewide, there are now more than 66,000 positive cases and 1,218 deaths.

Of those, 9,517 patients are hospitalized, 2,352 are in intensive care.

NYC total cases include 6,250 in the Bronx, 8,887 in Brooklyn, 5,582 in Manhattan, 10,737 in Queens, 1,984 on Staten Island and 35 from "unknown" locations, data shows. Forty five percent of those who tested positive were under the age of 45.

De Blasio offered clarity regarding social distancing fines, a ticket he said runs between \$250 and \$500.

De Blasio welcomed the USNS Comfort to New York City Monday, ahead of schedule. "We can do the life-saving work right now," the mayor said.

The USNS Comfort is expected to start seeing patients Tuesday, March 31st. The city says there will be a screening process in place

to determine what patients end up in the massive Navy hospital. Coronavirus patients will stay in the city's traditional hospitals. The ship is supposed to act like a relief valve, caring for the typical patients our hospitals saw before the virus hit the city.

The Comfort is equipped with 12 operating rooms, ICU beds, radiology suites, a CAT scanner and a pharmacy. About 1,100 medical staff is expected to be onboard, mostly active duty service members.

The mayor wants to triple hospital capacity to 60,000 beds by May. Speaking to reporters Monday, Governor Andrew Cuomo reiterated the importance of New Yorkers staying home.

He says the doubling of hospitalizations is now down to six days.

Cuomo adds the discharge rate of hospitalizations has held steady.

"First, the public has to be responsible. Stay at home. Mission two -- and this is going to be more and more clear as we go on -- the frontline battle is in the health care system," Cuomo said. Cuomo plan to redesign Medicaid could also put federal funding from the Coronavirus stimulus legislation for New York in jeopardy. The mayor said this was not the time to debate the proposal.



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## LEGAL NEWS

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## President Trump extends distancing guidelines

Everyone in the United States must avoid nonessential travel or gathering in groups of more than 10 for at least another month, and perhaps until June, the president Donald Trump said on Sunday.

He had earlier expressed a desire to relax the coronavirus guidelines and get the country back to work by Easter, April 12.

Mr. Trump's announcement came after two of the top doctors advising him warned that as many as 200,000 people in America could die during the outbreak.

In other developments:

■ Strict containment measures in the Seattle area, the home of the country's first

known case of the virus, appear to be paying off, although officials warned that the gains could be temporary.

■ Two of the country's largest health insurers, Cigna and Humana, agreed to protect their customers from out-of-pocket costs if they need treatment for Covid-19, the disease caused by the virus.

■ Global markets opened lower today, despite stabilization efforts from governments. Here's the latest.

■ The first of 22 scheduled flights carrying medical supplies from China arrived in New York on Sunday. White House officials said the flights would funnel much-needed goods

across the U.S.

■ Amid calls for more transparency in the U.S., public health experts are debating how much information on the spread of the virus should be released.

■ Hundreds of thousands of migrant laborers in India have begun long journeys on foot to get home, after being left homeless and jobless by a nationwide lockdown.

■ Nearly a dozen students at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., have developed symptoms of Covid-19. The school's president, Jerry Falwell Jr., reopened its campus last week after calling the response to the pandemic an "overreaction."



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## LEGAL NEWS IN BRIEF

#### NY, Mass. Postpone July Bar Exams Over Pandemic

The New York and Massachusetts bar exams will be postponed from July until unspecified dates in the fall due to the coronavirus pandemic, court and bar officials in both states announced.

#### The Attys And Legal Logic Behind Stay-At-Home Orders

The attorneys helping draft cities' and states' stay-at-home orders during the coronavirus pandemic have been tiptoeing through a legal minefield, working long hours to carve out the kind of work that should be considered "essential" and to ensure local governments aren't overstepping their authority.

#### Feds Won't Seek Jail For 'Varsity Blues' Mom During Outbreak

Ahead of a Tuesday sentencing hearing, federal prosecutors pushed back against efforts by a mother who pled guilty in the "Varsity Blues" college admissions case to downplay

her involvement in the schemes, but said they would ask the judge to delay any prison term during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### An Employer's Cheat Sheet For The 854-Page Virus Relief Bill

The \$2 trillion stimulus package the president signed into law Friday is a game-changer for a national economy decimated by the novel coronavirus, handing workers an unprecedented expansion of unemployment benefits and providing businesses with a deep well of loans. Here, Law360 looks at four employment takeaways from the feds' latest relief effort.

#### COVID-19 Fuels Heated Fight Over CCPA Enforcement Timing

The coronavirus pandemic has escalated tensions over whether companies have the necessary time and resources to fully comply with California's landmark privacy law by July, but even a temporary enforcement reprieve wouldn't give businesses a free pass for their current conduct, experts say.



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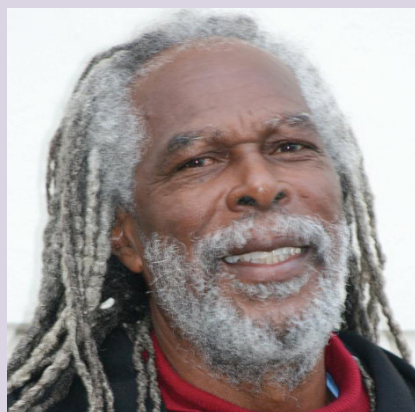
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## Reggae singer Bob Andy dies

Reggae singer and song writer Keith "Bob Andy" Anderson is dead. He died Friday on March 27th at his Stony Hill, St. Andrew home. He was 76.

It is reported that he had been ailing for some time. In the early 1970s, Bob Andy, whose career spanned several decades, recorded with Marcia Griffiths as the duo Bob and Marcia, initially for Studio One, but later under producer Harry J's tutelage.

Bob and Marcia had a major UK hit with the song, Young, Gifted and Black, and went on tour in England together. Bob Andy was conferred with the Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander for his contribution to the development of Jamaican music.

## Rihanna donates US\$5M to help fight COVID-19

Pop singer Rihanna has reportedly donated US \$5 million to help impoverished countries affected by the coronavirus.

She has also gifted her home country Barbados with US\$700,000 worth of ventilators. The donations were made through her Clara Lionel Foundation.

The money will also be used to support local food banks, purchase medical equipment for doctors and nurses on the frontlines, and provide testing in poor nations such as Haiti and Malawi.



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# ENTERTAINMENT



## BLACK MEN SPEAK THEIR TRUTH:

Amazon No. 1 Bestselling Authors in Ethnic Demographic Studies (l-r) Bernard McArthur, Malcolm Boyd, Phil Andrews, Rev. Dr. Phil Craig, Dr. Terry E. Grant, Richard A. Celestin, Esq., Michael James, Milton Shelton, Shawn D. Farnum, Jr., Dr. Samuel Gilmore, and Jason Murray. Very rarely do black men tell their stories and give us a glimpse into their unique perspectives; but in this book 13 men take the time to share their victories with you along with their obstacles. They all somehow miraculously muster the strength, determination, fortitude, hope, intelligence, humility to extract the highest value from their life's lessons and give hope to all fathers through their unique lenses. "It's time that we hear from our brothers who are doing positive things in the community and making a positive impact in the lives of others. This will be a welcomed new collection of history about black men," says Toni Coleman Brown, Vice President of the Collaborative Experience. The co-authors are penning experiences about life, fatherhood, friendships, relationships business and social issues as well as negative perceptions that they've had to face in order to survive in today's society. Readers will be able to relate to the stories shared in the anthology and will understand that they're not alone in their life challenges.

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## Economic impact payments: What you need to know check IRS.gov for the latest information

The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service today announced that distribution of economic impact payments will begin in the next three weeks and will be distributed automatically, with no action required for most people.

**Who is eligible for the economic impact payment?** Tax filers with adjusted gross income up to \$75,000 for individuals and up to \$150,000 for married couples filing joint returns will receive the full payment. For filers with income above those amounts, the payment amount is reduced by \$5 for each \$100 above the \$75,000/\$150,000 thresholds. Single filers with income exceeding \$99,000 and \$198,000 for joint filers with no children are not eligible.

Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for either 2019 or 2018 will automatically receive an economic impact payment of up to \$1,200 for individuals or \$2,400 for married couples. Parents also receive \$500 for each qualifying child.

**How will the IRS know where to send my payment?** The vast majority of people do not need to take any action. The IRS will calculate and automatically send the economic impact payment to those eligible. For people who have already filed their 2019 tax returns, the IRS will use this information to calculate the payment amount. For those who have not yet filed their return for 2019, the IRS will use information from their 2018 tax filing to calculate the payment. The economic impact payment will be deposited directly into the same banking account reflected on the return filed.

**The IRS does not have my direct deposit information. What can I do?**

In the coming weeks, Treasury plans to develop a web-based portal for individuals to provide their banking information to the IRS online, so that individuals can receive payments immediately as opposed to checks in the mail.

**I am not typically required to file a tax return. Can I still receive my payment?**

Yes. People who typically do not file a tax return will need to file a simple tax return to receive an economic impact payment. Low-income taxpayers, senior citizens, Social Security recipients, some veterans and individuals with disabilities who are otherwise not required to file a tax return will not owe tax.

**How can I file the tax return needed to receive my economic impact payment?**

IRS.gov/coronavirus will soon provide information instructing people in these groups on how to file a 2019 tax return with simple, but necessary, information including their filing status, number of dependents and direct deposit bank account information.

**I have not filed my tax return for 2018 or 2019. Can I still receive an economic impact payment?** Yes. The IRS urges anyone with a tax filing obligation who has not yet filed a tax return for 2018 or 2019 to file as soon as they can to receive an economic impact payment. Taxpayers should include direct deposit banking information on the return.



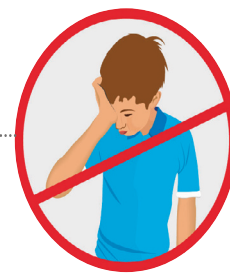
## COVID-19

NOVEL  
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TIPS

**Don't be scared, be prepared!** Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand-sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol. Thorough cleaning with soap and water will remove most microorganisms.



Avoid touching your mouth, nose, and eyes with unwashed hands.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces including: desks, tables, countertops, sinks, door handles, faucets, railings, phones, bathrooms and rooms. Cleaning removes germs from surfaces, while disinfecting kills germs on surfaces. Use alcohol-based products to disinfect surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care. Call your doctor before going in to get checked so they are aware of your condition. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. If a family member is sick, place them in a separate room and bathroom if possible.



Remember to stay calm and practice good hygiene. Reach out to your local health department or medical provider with any questions.

## NEW YORKERS: STAY HOME TO STOP THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS

New Yorkers working together and staying home can slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in New York City. When you go out for essential needs, work or to get fresh air, keep distance between yourself and others and take the following precautions.



### PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS

- Keep at least 6 feet between yourself and others.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or sleeve when sneezing or coughing.
- Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.
- Monitor your health more closely than usual for cold or flu symptoms.



### IF YOU ARE SICK

- Stay home.
- If you have a cough, shortness of breath, fever, sore throat and do not feel better after 3-4 days, consult with your doctor.
- If you need help getting medical care, call 311.
- NYC will provide care regardless of immigration status or ability to pay.



### PROTECT THE MOST VULNERABLE

- Stay home if you have lung disease, heart disease, diabetes, cancer or a weakened immune system.
- Stay home and call, video chat or text with family or friends who have one of these conditions.



### REDUCE OVERCROWDING

- Stay home.
- Telecommute if possible.
- If you do go out:**
  - Stagger work hours away from peak travel times.
  - Walk or bike.
  - Do not gather in crowds.

Text COVID to 692-692 for real-time updates or visit [nyc.gov/coronavirus](https://nyc.gov/coronavirus).

Call 311 to report harassment or discrimination. Call 888-NYC-WELL, text "WELL" to 65173 or chat online at [nyc.gov/nycwell](https://nyc.gov/nycwell) to connect with a counselor.

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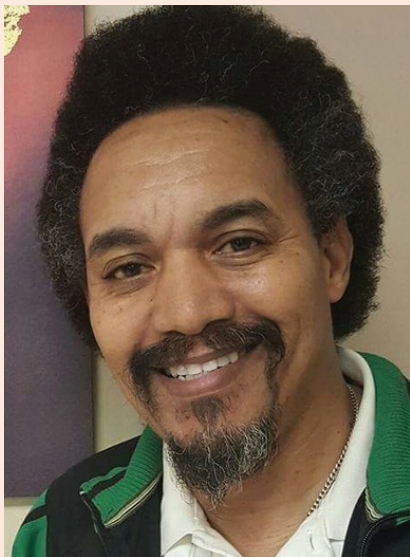


# Cannabis News

## Cresco Labs Announces Opening of First Four Sunnyside in New York

**BUSINESS WIRE:**  
Cresco Labs, one of the largest vertically integrated multistate cannabis operators in the United States, has announced the conversion of four dispensaries to Cresco’s nationwide retail brand, Sunnyside, in the Williamsburg neighborhood in Brooklyn, Huntington Station, New Hartford and Bardonia, New York.  
Cresco has also launched a home delivery service for medical cannabis patients in the New Hartford area of New York. Patients can place orders for home delivery for a variety of products including vape pens and cartridges, topical creams, oral tinctures and capsules at Sunnyside.shop. Cresco plans to roll out its medical cannabis home delivery program to the three other communities with Sunnyside\* locations in the coming months.  
These dispensaries in the state of New York are the first stores to be rebranded under Cresco’s national retail brand on the East Coast. Cresco holds one of the 10 vertically integrated cannabis business licenses granted in the state by the New York State Department of Health. Each license gives the operator the right to operate one cultivation facility and four dispensaries in New York.  
“As we continue to build our national retail brand and consolidate the five dispensary brands we operate around the country under the Sunnyside\* name, we remain focused on ensuring that we deliver against the promise of what Sunnyside\* stands for—wellness, education and convenience,” said Charlie Bachtell, Cresco Labs’

CEO and co-founder. “New York has a growing medical cannabis patient program of more than 114,000 people who look to dispensaries and their cannabis product forms to treat a variety of qualifying conditions and critical illnesses.  
With Sunnyside, we aim to provide a best-in-class shopping experience through ongoing education, product availability and technology. The ease of home delivery provides the convenience that many living in New York will appreciate with the benefit of the quality and consistency that regulated, third-party tested, cannabis products can provide. Home delivery plays a critical role in our ecommerce strategy, and we are excited to offer this service to reach medical cannabis patients in our communities with the right products they need.”



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## New Jersey Supreme Court Rules Employers Must Accommodate Workers’ Off-Duty Medical Cannabis Use

**NEW JERSEY:**  
The New Jersey Supreme Court ruled March 10 that employers must accommodate workers’ off-duty medical cannabis use in a decision that marks a shift in the courts’ view of medical cannabis in the state, according to Pashman Stein Associate Dillon McGuire.  
Justin Wild, a former funeral director for Feeney Funeral Home, had been treating his cancer with medical cannabis for a year with-

out receiving any negative performance evaluations from his employer. When Wild had a minor car accident while on duty, Feeney Funeral Home tested him for drugs and alcohol as part of their company policy.  
“At that time, he said, ‘Look, I have this medical marijuana card. I guarantee my test will be positive for marijuana, but it’s prescribed. I’m using it at home, after work hours,’” McGuire, whose firm was an amicus on the case, representing the ACLU and arguing on behalf of the plaintiff, told Cannabis Business Times.  
When Wild failed the drug test, Feeney Funeral Home terminated him, prompting him to file a claim under New Jersey’s law against discrimination, alleging that his employer discriminated against him based on his medical condition and his need to use cannabis to treat it.

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## SPORTS

## Cricket series could go head without spectators

The West Indies' upcoming away series in England could be played without spectators with English cricket chiefs considering installing coronavirus checkpoints and isolation units at grounds as a way of restarting the game behind closed doors.

Last week the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced that no professional cricket would be played before May 28 at the earliest.

But the ECB is stepping up its planning for a potential resumption of international action with no spectators. England's test series with West Indies is due to start at the Oval on June 4. Australia and Pakistan are also due to tour during the English summer.

## Cricket World Cup Twenty20 qualifiers postponed

New Delhi, India:

Cricket's governing body postponed a swathe of qualifiers for next year's Twenty20 World Cup and the 2023 50-over World Cup on March 26th as the novel coronavirus pandemic continues to wreak havoc on international sport.

All qualifiers scheduled to take place before July in Kuwait, South Africa, Namibia, Spain, Papua New Guinea, Belgium, Malaysia, and Finland are affected, a statement said. "The decision has been taken in conjunction with members and in line with the relevant Government and public health authority advice," the International Cricket Council stated.

India will host the T20 World Cup, a revamped version of the former Champions Trophy, in October-November of 2021. It is not to be confused with this year's T20 World Cup in Australia.

India will also hold the 50-over World Cup in 2023. This year's Indian Premier League, the world's richest cricket league, is one of the many sports events worldwide to be postponed including the Tokyo Olympics, which have been delayed until next year.

The ICC said this year's remaining qualifiers are being "continually monitored". The ECB's Director of Special Projects, Steve Elworthy, told the Guardian that such an approach would essentially mean creating a "safe and sterile environment" at grounds.

## Jamaica's reggae boy signs 2 year deal Canadian Premier league outfit

Jamaica's Reggae Boy Tevin Shaw says he's aiming to be a first team regular at his new club Atletico Ottawa in the Canadian Premier League. The 23-year-old midfielder signed a two-year deal with the club on Thursday, March 26th, ending his spell with Portmore United in the Red Stripe Premier League.

The former Tivoli Gardens, Boys' Town and Camperdown High player is also hoping this move can help him to transition into the European market.

"Trying to be one of the standout players in my role and also be a leader; add few goals, few assists and continue to work my socks off to get a few more national call-ups and take it from there. Also to make the transition to a better set-up into the wider world because I aspire to play at the highest level," said Shaw.

Shaw becomes the third Jamaican after Alex Marshall and Nicholas Nelson to sign for a team in



Tevin Shaw

the Canadian Premier League. The Canadian Premier League is suspended until April 11 due to the spread of the Covid 19 coronavirus globally.

## IOC president says rescheduled Olympics could go ahead before summer of 2021

International Olympic Committee (IOC) chief Thomas Bach says the rescheduled Tokyo Games could go ahead before summer 2021 despite facing "thousands" of logistical and financial problems.

Though most people have assumed the Games will be held around roughly the same July-August timetable as they were planned for this year, the IOC president says earlier dates in 2021 were possible.

The IOC agreed with Japan on Tuesday, March 24th to the first postponement in the Olympics' 124-year history due to risks from the coronavirus impact. It was the last major international sporting event of 2020 to be cancelled, with many questioning why a seemingly inevitable decision took so long to make as the coronavirus epidemic raged around the world.

The decision is a huge blow to Japan, which has invested US \$12 billion in the run-up, and presents a massive headache to reorganize logistics, funding and sponsorship.

## Italian football opens national training center to coronavirus patients

MILAN, ITALY:

Italian football bosses confirmed yesterday, March 26th the national team's training center at Coverciano in Tuscany will be made available to local authorities for the treatment of novel coronavirus patients.

Italy is now the global epicenter for the disease which has now killed 7,503 in the country and infected almost 75,000. "Health is of the utmost importance and needs to be protected, which is why the FIGC [Italian Football Federation] is opening the center in Coverciano to Italians in difficulty," FIGC president Gabriele Gravina said.

All sport in Italy has been suspended until April 3, and the FIGC chief said he had told the Mayor of Florence Dario Nardella that local authorities could use the facility just outside the city. "We're not playing football now, to get back to it we need to win the most important match against coronavirus together," added Gravina.

The center already hosts a unit of the local fire brigade, with the hotel and the auditorium now being made available for patients receiving treatment. Coverciano is where all of Italy's national football teams train. The Italian Football Museum is also located on site.

Known as the 'University of football' it also hosts high-level training courses for coaches and referees and will be the future control center for video assistant referee (VAR). In Tuscany, nearly 3,000 people have been infected by the virus which has killed 142 locally.

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## NEW JERSEY NEWS

## How to volunteer and donate in New Jersey during the coronavirus outbreak

As the coronavirus causes real disruption to the lives of New Jerseyans, some residents will be disproportionately affected and many service agencies will be critically impacted.

For those so inclined, there are myriad opportunities to assist those with the greatest need.

This resource guide includes service agencies that are accepting assistance. Readers are encouraged to check back frequently, as the list will be updated regularly.

**American Red Cross:** According to the American Red Cross website, there is a “severe blood shortage due to the coronavirus outbreak.” For more information, go to the organization’s site.

**Feeding America:** The mission of Feeding America is to “feed America’s hungry through a nationwide network of member food banks and engage our country in the fight to end hunger.”

**New Jersey Pandemic Relief Fund:** First lady Tammy Murphy said the New Jersey Pandemic Relief Fund, known as NJPRF, was established “to collect donations and distribute funds. To donate, go to <https://njprf.org/>.

**New York Blood Center/New Jersey Blood Services:** The nonprofit blood collection and distribution organization “strongly urges individuals who feel healthy and well to make an appointment at a donor center or blood drive to give blood, platelets and plasma.” To schedule an appointment, go to [nybc.org/blood](https://nybc.org/blood).

**Operation Homefront:** This nonprofit offers short-term and critical financial assistance, long-term stability and recurring support programs to military families.

To help support military and veteran families impacted by COVID-19, go to <https://www.operationhomefront.org/need/list>.

**Salvation Army:** A statement on the Salvation Army of New Jersey website reads: “We are anticipating, and planning for, an increase in need. Our corps community centers are prepared to assist those in need of emergency services, which includes our feeding programs. With the disproportionate risk to the senior population we are conducting an outreach to senior citizens in communities to ensure that they stay safe and that they have necessary provisions.” Donations can be made on the website.

## Man charged with assault of federal officers for coughing on them while claiming to have coronavirus

A Brooklyn man who has been accused of selling scarce medical equipment needed to fight the coronavirus at about a 700% markup has been arrested for coughing on FBI agents while claiming to have the virus, officials said.

Baruch Feldheim, 43, is charged with assaulting a federal officer and making false statements after authorities questioned him about his alleged stockpile of equipment, U.S. Attorney Craig Carpenito’s office announced Monday.

The man is accused making false statements about the sale of medical equipment to doctors and nurses, officials said. He used a texting app with the group chat name “Virus2020!” to communicate with people in search of supplies — including badly

needed N95 respirator masks, officials said.

In one instance, Feldheim agreed to sell one doctor about 1,000 masks and other assorted equipment for \$12,000, which was about a 700% markup from the normal cost, officials said.

“Feldheim directed the doctor to an auto repair shop in Irvington, New Jersey, to pick up the order,” according to a statement from the U.S. Attorney. “According to the doctor, the repair shop contained enough materials, including hand sanitizers, Clorox wipes, chemical cleaning supply agents, and surgical supplies, to outfit an entire hospital.”

Officials allege he then started selling out medical equipment out of his home in Brooklyn.

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# TAX

## New York City's Response to COVID-19: Resources and Information on Important Laws

As you are aware, the City is currently responding to the novel coronavirus, and we want to make sure that you are provided with the most up-to-date information.

NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP): Please be advised that effective March 17th, DCWP has issued an emergency rule regarding price gouging of products that are used to treat, prevent, or limit the spread of COVID-19.

DCWP also reminds New Yorkers about NYC Workplace Laws. To learn more about the city labor laws, please visit [nyc.gov/workers](http://nyc.gov/workers). Please also see attached for document with important information for employers and employees.

### NYC Paid Safe and Sick Leave Law:

Employees can use sick leave for themselves or for a family member for diagnosis, care, or treatment of an illness, injury, or health condition or for preventive medical care (for example, staying home to observe symptoms of COVID-19).

### NYC Temporary Schedule Change Law:

Employees can ask to make temporary changes to their schedules for certain personal events twice per year, totaling no more than 2 days.

### NYC's Fair Workweek Law

Under the law, fast food and retail employers must give workers advance notice of work schedules, including schedule changes. Fast food employers must pay a premium for certain schedule changes.

### NYC Freelance Isn't Free Act:

All contracts worth \$800 or more must be in writing. The written contract must spell out the work freelancers will perform; the pay for the work; and the date freelancers get paid. Freelancers and hiring parties must keep a copy of the written contract.

### NYC Free Tax Prep:

Due to the COVID19 crisis, all NYC free tax prep providers have suspended their services in NYC. We may resume in person services at a later date, please visit [www.nyc.gov/taxprep](http://www.nyc.gov/taxprep) for updates. In the meantime, we urge filers to file online. Prepare and file your federal income tax return for free using tax preparation and filing software through IRS Free File. As of March 20, 2020, the tax filing deadline of April 15, 2020 has been postponed to July 15, 2020.

### Paid Sick Leave Law:

Under legislation signed by Governor Cuomo, New York workers are guaranteed job protection and financial compensation while they are on a mandatory or precautionary quarantine order due to COVID-19. Here is the factsheet for the COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Law: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/>

### Unemployment Benefits and Health Insurance FAQs:

The Unemployment Benefits and Health Insurance FAQ provides guidance for those recently unemployed due to COVID-19.

### Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC):

TLC Delivery - TLC in conjunction with other sister agencies launched Delivery TLC. Drivers can sign-up to work delivering meals to elderly and high risk people around the City. Drivers will make a flat rate of \$15 per hour (plus gas mileage and tolls will be reimbursed) and thousands of New Yorkers will receive much needed meals. Drivers will be selected on a first-come, first served basis. Drivers that are not initially selected, may be contacted later on as the

demand for meals increase. Drivers who signed-up are being contacted and will be assigned shifts. Visit [www.nyc.gov/DeliveryTLC](http://www.nyc.gov/DeliveryTLC)

### NYC Department of Education:

The NYC Department of Education (DOE) has created Regional Enrichment Centers (RECs)—places where the children of first responders, health care providers, transit workers and other key personnel can be safely cared for while their parents continue to serve NYC in this time of need. The Regional Enrichment Centers (RECs) now also serve grocery, food and pharmacy workers.

### GetCoveredNYC:

GetCoveredNYC helps New Yorkers enroll in health insurance with dedicated specialists who can assist you in your language. Under the Affordable Care Act (also known as Obamacare), there are many low- or no-cost health insurance options for New Yorkers. Complete the form to receive free health insurance enrollment assistance from a GetCoveredNYC Specialist.



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## RELATIONSHIP

# Tips to keep your relationship intact during quarantine

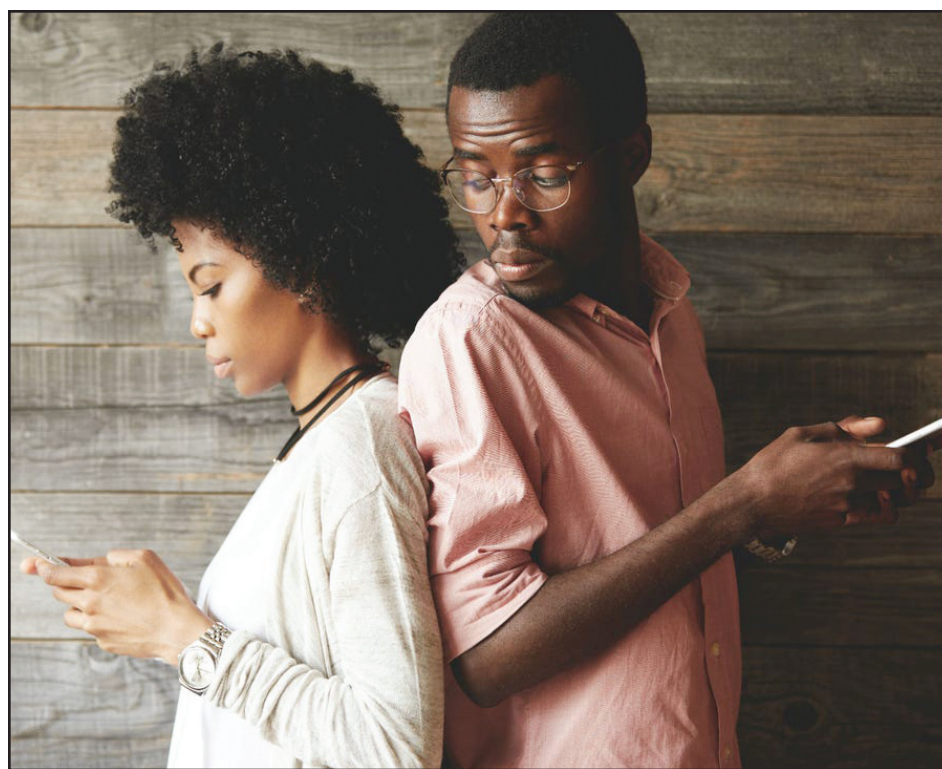
By Ashley Laderer

For some couples, being stuck inside together in their own little bubble for a few weeks sounds like a dream come true. But for other couples, this could be their worst nightmare. From what I hear, some couples quarantined together are already losing their minds — and we've got a long way to go, people!

In order to help you cope with all of these changes, here are some therapist approved tips for keeping your relationship intact when you're quarantined with your partner.

**1. Make time for alone time:** According to Wright, alone time every day is crucial. "Everyone needs time by themselves and it can't just be when you use the bathroom," she says. "Take time to be alone whether that is to just breathe, masturbate, text with a friend, take a nap, read...whatever. The important thing is to take time to be with you, yourself, and just you." Try to coordinate timing with your partner, this way, when you're having your alone time, your partner can have theirs, too. You both need time apart from each other to recharge and ensure that you don't rip each other's eyes out.

**2. Create a schedule:** Many people are struggling to keep a normal schedule right now, which is unfortunate because most of us rely on schedules for a sense of stability and even to combat things like anxiety and depression. Wright suggests couples sit down together and come up with a rough schedule to add some structure and make things feel a little more normal. This is particularly helpful for couples navigating working from home together for the first time, or being around each



other a lot more than usual. You can also use this time to set some general ground rules about noise or interruptions when working.

**3. Get fresh air:** Yes, many of us are being ordered to stay inside our homes, but that doesn't yet mean we can't take a walk around the block or go on a skate or bike ride. Wright says getting outside will help your well-being and help you not explode at your partner when things are tense. We as humans need fresh air. Just keep the six feet rule in

mind in order to stay away from those germmy respiratory droplets we're all trying so hard to avoid.

Getting outside is great for your mental health. Studies show that walks outside in nature can reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression — so if you live nearby a park or nature trail, take advantage of it!

**4. Stay in touch with the outside world:** Unfortunately, during this time, it's not possible (well, possible but very, very ill advised

— PLEASE don't do it unless absolutely necessary) to go out and see other friends and family members. The whole point of social distancing is to avoid the spreading of germs, and that only works when we all stay home. But, thanks to technology, there are plenty of other ways to communicate with others. Don't neglect relationships with friends and loved ones who are not your partner. "Making sure that you have one to two calls, minimum, per day with other people is helpful to your mental health and overall sanity and connection," Wright says. "Schedule video chats or phone calls with at least one friend or family member per day. It's important to maintain your other relationships, even while you're primarily with your partner."

**5. Learn how to communicate better:** Communication is key in relationships all the time, but when you are quarantined together 24/7, communication is even more important. Part of this is learning to fight well — meaning being empathetic, and not engaging in minimizing, name calling, or shaming. "We're all going to lose it for what feels like 'no reason,' we're going to be rude or not the best version of ourselves — and that's okay," Wright says. "We need to give ourselves and our partner(s) grace."

**6. Use the time to your advantage:** If you're one of those couples who lives together but barely ever sees each other due to conflicting schedules or social lives, now's the time to reconnect. Although it's not ideal to be "trapped" at home, you can still make the most of it and do fun things with your partner

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